(d) if so, the reasons for dependency of these companies on the foreign assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Inhouse capabilities are available with public sector oil companies for inducting advanced technologies in oil servicing operations. However, in certain areas, equipment/services and domain experts are also being hired from outside agencies including foreign companies wherever possible and whenever required to enhance production from the wells.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) a Navratna company has been earning annual dividend regularly for the last few years.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

**Blocks allotted under NELP**

†2357. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURU MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under New Exploration and Licensing Policy several blocks have been allotted to private and public institutes in several rounds;'

(b) if so, the total number of blocks allotted till February, 2007 and the estimated reservoir of crude oil and gas therein;

(c) whether at the time of allotment any tentative time-limit has been fixed for these blocks regarding the commencement of productions;

(d) if so, number of blocks from where production could not start within the fixed time-limit; and

(e) the names of allottee institutes which have been found guilty for it?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes Sir, total 162 exploration blocks have been awarded to various Pvt. Companies/Joint ventures including National Oil Companies under six rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) held so far.

(b) Till February 2007, under six rounds of NELP, 162 Exploration blocks were awarded. Estimated initial in-place reserves in the blocks awarded under NELP till date is 27.27 MMT oil and 398.3 BCM gas.

(c) and (d) Oil/gas production from the exploration blocks results after exploration work and discoveries made, if any. Production Sharing Contract (PSC) has provision for phase-wise commitment of exploration work to be carried out by successful bidder. No time frame as such is imposed for commencement of production, however, after making a discovery, time frame is defined for carrying out development activities.

(e) Does not arise in view of above.

**Recommendations of the Tariff Commission**

†2358. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a suggestion for formulating a policy for price fixation of natural gas produced by ONGC and Oil India Ltd., has been given by the Tariff Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made by the said Commission;

(c) the prices of the gas fixed by the ONGC and Oil India Ltd. as per these recommendations; and

(d) the extent by which the above prices are more or less than their actual price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Tariff Commission

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.